

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint comprising:
- an outer member having a multi-layer structure of three or more layers including an outside member, one or more intermediate members, and an inside member, and a spherical inner surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;
- an inner member having a spherical outer surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;
- a plurality of balls each arranged in a wedge-shaped ball track formed by the track groove of the outer member and the track groove of the inner member; ~~and~~
- a retainer arranged between the spherical inner surface of the outer member and spherical outer surface of the inner member and adapted to retain the plurality of balls[,]; and
- a fixing means for fit-engaging the inside member with the outside member at an end of the outside member, thereby integrally fixing together the outside member, the one or more intermediate members, and the inside member.
- ~~wherein the outer member is formed in a multi-layer structure of three or more layers formed of an outside member, one or a plurality of intermediate members, and an inside member, and~~
- ~~wherein at least one of the intermediate members is formed of an elastic material.~~
2. (Original) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 1, wherein the outside member and the inside member are provided with engagement portions for effecting torque transmission.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to ~~Claim 3,~~ Claim 1, wherein the fixing means is a caulked portion formed through

radially inward plastic deformation of an end portion of the outside member to effect locking to an end portion of the inside member.

6. (Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 25[[1]], wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

7. (Previously Presented) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 1, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 26[[2]], wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 21[[4]], wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

15. (Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 22[[9]], wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

16. (Withdrawn) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 5, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 2, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint comprising:

- an outer member having a multi-layer structure of three or more layers including an outside member, one or more intermediate members, and an inside member, and a spherical inner surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;

- an inner member having a spherical outer surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;

- a plurality of balls each arranged in a wedge-shaped ball track formed by the track groove of the outer member and the track groove of the inner member;

- a retainer arranged between the spherical inner surface of the outer member and spherical outer surface of the inner member and adapted to retain the plurality of balls; and

- a fixing means for fit-engaging the inside member with the outside member thereby integrally fixing together the outside member, the one or more intermediate members, and the inside member, and

- wherein at least one of the one or more intermediate members is formed of an elastic material, and

- wherein the fixing means is equipped with a cylinder portion to be fitted onto an outer side of an opening end portion of the outside member, and a lock portion extending radially inwards from an end portion of the cylinder portion to be locked to an end portion of the inside member.

22. (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint comprising:

an outer member having a multi-layer structure of three or more layers including an outside member, one or more intermediate members, and an inside member, and a spherical inner surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;

an inner member having a spherical outer surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;

a plurality of balls each arranged in a wedge-shaped ball track formed by the track groove of the outer member and the track groove of the inner member;

a retainer arranged between the spherical inner surface of the outer member and spherical outer surface of the inner member and adapted to retain the plurality of balls; and

a fixing means for fit-engaging the inside member with the outside member thereby integrally fixing together the outside member, the one or more intermediate members, and the inside member,

wherein at least one of the one or more intermediate members is formed of an elastic material,

wherein the outside member and the inside member are provided with engagement portions for effecting torque transmission, and

wherein the fixing means is equipped with a cylinder portion to be fitted onto an outer side of an opening end portion of the outside member, and a lock portion extending radially inwards from an end portion of the cylinder portion to be locked to an end portion of the inside member.

23. (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 21, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.

24. (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 22, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.

25. (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more intermediate members is formed of an elastic material.

26. (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 2, wherein at least one of the one or more intermediate members is formed of an elastic material.